

progress at Conference three years ago under a hot cross-fire than at any time before or since. A half dozen contributors to the EVANGELIST of the Rensch type would be the means of sending missionaries into foreign fields quicker than any other agency at work among us at the present time. Agitation separates the butter from the milk. Friction produces light and power. The signs are encouraging when a cause is of sufficient importance to arouse opposition. To be real honest I do not think that any of the friends interested in foreign missions are opposed to home work. Neither do I believe that any of our brethren are actually opposed to foreign missions but the views of some seem to be rather contracted. As bases of supply of both money and men we must have a strong, expanding home work and a school to train and equip men and women for the difficult work in unevangelized fields, but the *objective* in all our efforts should be literal, practical obedience to the command of the Master to preach the gospel to all creatures in all nations preparatory to His second personal advent into the world. The object of the Master appears to be that all shall know of his grace before he comes again so none can plead ignorance when judgment is to be executed. Possibly a higher object may be to have representatives from all nations and kindreds and people and tongues among the redeemed who shall come with Him to judge the world, so that all will have just judgment according to the circumstances and opportunities of each people, but be the purpose what it may, the Master did say that the gospel of the kingdom must be preached as a witness to all nations before the end will come and this work of witnessing He has committed into the hands of His true followers, hence none can claim to be true to Him until they in purpose of heart enter into the purpose of the great heart of God.

Somehow the idea pervades almost every denominational mind that the entire world must be saved by its own particular creed or "doxy" and as long as there are souls around home that have not been thus saved they are not called upon to go into any other fields: this is the logic of Brother Rensch's article in EVANGELIST No. 28, i. e., as long as we have not preached our form of doctrine to every soul in Cincinnati we are not called upon to go to the next city or any other country.

It seems to be superfluous to state again and again that the gospel has been preached to the people of this land all their life time. It is taught to the children in almost every nook and corner of the land. The Bible is almost everywhere, not only in Christian homes, but in the courts of justice, or injustice as the case may be, in the hotels, on the railway trains, in the houses of brewers and gamblers, in the dens of libertines and prostitutes. Under such conditions none can say they have never heard of the Christ, never had the opportunity to read his word or hear it from pulpit or platform or at the street corner. Church spires dot our coun-

try from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Gulf to the Pole almost, and they all speak louder than mere words.

It is very sad to think of how few, comparatively speaking, know anything experimentally of the Christ; it is sadder to think of how little we as a church claiming to have the keeping of the fundamental doctrines of Christ are doing to impart real vital truth to those that are around our own doors or in our own country but notwithstanding all that our American people do know or can know enough of the Christ to be saved by his grace if they really want to be. Surely people have better means of knowing of the true God than idolatrous Rome had and yet Paul reasons in his epistle to the Romans they could have known if they desired to. Rom. 1:21, 32.

While we have all possible opportunities in this land of Bibles, churches, and schools there are nearly a thousand millions of beings naturally as precious in the sight of God as we are who know nothing of the love and grace of God and have no way of learning of it unless it is sent or brought to them by the self-sacrificing love of God's true children from all Christian lands.

None of the great churches of our land have yet succeeded in converting any great percentage of the people of any given community to their particular views, they might have reasoned, or might now reason as Brother Rensch does, as long as there are so many in this country that are not Presbyterians or Methodists or Baptists, as the case may be, we are not called upon to go into foreign fields. What is the use of going there, or sail a thousand miles across the waters while there are millions at home not saved, or if saved, not by *our* doctrine. History proves that this is what the churches have in substance been saying to a large extent. Nearly all the pioneer work in the regions beyond has been done by consecrated, strong minded, man-loving, God-fearing men and women under protest of their respective churches and by non-sectarian alliances or organizations, some of which some of our brethren even now yet delight in stigmatizing or condemning. Dear Lord give us enlargement of heart.

Many high professors in obedience to ordinances cannot feel the cry of over twenty millions of widows in India, ostracised from all respectable society, with their heads shaved, compelled to live on one scant meal a day and fast every tenth day besides, all because Jesus is not known in his true character in that land. They cannot feel the woes of ninety millions of souls in the heart of Africa who worship the devil out of abject fear, a people who are strangers to a smile, and know no joy in this life and are looking forward to nothing but an awful hell in the life to come, all because Christ is not known among them. The Priest and the Levite obeyed the ordinances but they had no sympathy for the suffering, nobler victim they met on the way to Jericho, it was left to the

Samaritan to bind up his wounds and provide a place of shelter and comfort for him: thus it almost seems these days.

Salvation ought to be the primary thought in every advancing step in all religious work at home and abroad, but after all we cannot save any one, that is solely the work God thru Christ. Saved, sanctified people are simply supposed to be the living witnesses of the saving power, but while we can not save we can humanize and civilize by our teaching and the influence of our lives. This is no small part of the real work of the missionary. Even this would richly pay for all sacrifices made. A man is regarded a patriot and a hero when he will shoulder a musket and go out and engage in bloody warfare for the alleviation of human bondage or human suffering, whether it be at home, as during our Civil War, or abroad, as in the Spanish-American War. Such deeds of valor, as they are called, are lauded and applauded by many, some even Christian ministers who are indifferent toward the accomplishment of better results thru the channels of divine grace. It will take so-called Christian soldiers a long time to convince the Filipinos that they have come upon their islands on a mission of love in the name of Jesus to subdue them into subjection to what is regarded a Christian government, at the point of the bayonet or the mouth of the musket. Is it not strange that a professedly Christian people regard the conquests of arms greater than the conquests of love and grace.

Again, practical men in all pursuits of life go to the most prolific, fruitful fields of labor and enterprise. Good farmers long ago abandoned the exhausted soil of some of the New England States and planted themselves upon the rich Virginia soil, thru-out the prairies of the west. Enterprising business men seek unoccupied fields in which to exert their energies and amass their fortunes. The church ought to have the wisdom of the world. The greatest good to the greatest number should be the aim of every human life. If we believe that we have a doctrine to present superior to that of others we should not spend all our energies in trying to impose it upon a people already preached to death with a multiplicity of dogmas: why not go into pristine fields and plant the standard of Jesus where it will not be pulled down by a hundred enemies within the so-called church of the living God.

Insomuch as our blessed Master has specifically and pointedly commanded us to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, and whereas the suffering millions in unchristianized lands are crying for help and deliverance, and whereas the most profitable fields of labor lie in the "regions beyond" the Brethren church ought to make this greater work and larger field the highest object of her noblest aspiration, making everything else objective and subservient to the accomplishment of the great plan of God, i. e., the evangelization of the world.